

# Her Majesty's Tiniest Drill Sergeant Teaching at Victor

A former regiment sergeant major of the British Army is teaching fourth graders in Torrance this fall.

"Probably the tiniest drill sergeant in Her Majesty's forces" is the way five-foot May Appolinar, British exchange teacher, describes her one-time military role.

The grey-haired schoolmarm, whose blue eyes twinkled as she recalled six years of wartime service in Palestine and Germany, is teaching pupils of Miss Mary Barrett at Victor School while the Torrance teacher takes over her class at St. Ignatius School, Canterbury, England, for the year.

It was her off-the-drill-field Army duties—as a welfare worker that led Miss Appolinar ten years ago to take up teaching as a career. "I wanted to have an opportunity to help mold children's characters in their formative years," she explained. After a college stint, the Scottish lass taught school in her native Edinburgh, prior to accepting a post at St. Ignatius School in England.

What brought her across the Atlantic to teach American youngsters for a year? "I've always loved travel," she pointed out. "However, I don't think you really get to know a country or its people as well when you are spending a holiday as you do when you live and work amongst the people."

In comparing schools in Scotland and England to what she has been led to expect here, Miss Appolinar said that the length of the school day and size of the class is about the same for the younger students on both continents.

The school she taught at most recently was in a very old building which is about to be pulled down. Located

in the midst of a city which is undergoing a re-development program, the 100-year old facility serves 250 children in the five-to-seven year old age bracket. Schools dealing with this age group are referred to as "infant schools." In England there are full-grade elementary schools as well as infant schools, she explained. The curriculum is quite similar to the elementary curriculum here, she pointed out.

The exchange teacher's orientation to American schools was an experience she caught on the run. Just as she began to exchange mail with the teacher whose class she is now assuming, the British Isles were hit with a postal strike; and there was only one letter which got to her before she boarded ship. Aboard the Queen Elizabeth, 100 teachers from all corners of Great

Britain who were heading towards American schools met one afternoon in the ship's lounge. Just as the meeting got underway, the boat hit rough seas, and the meeting was disbanded.

There was time in New York City and Washington, D.C. during the week before she arrived in California, however, she added, in which to catch up on what to expect at lectures sandwiched in between sightseeing tours.

Will she be a wee bit lonely for a bit of Britain this year? "Don't think so," she winked. "Aboard ship I met another schoolmarm. Her name was Miss Sheila Hight. Do you know where she was heading? Torrance. And do you know where she'll be teaching? Victor School, same as I. And we've both already met our headmaster—Mr. Robert Vassar."



A WAY TO KNOW THE PEOPLE . . . Mae Appolinar's love of travel brought her to Torrance from faraway Canterbury, England. The school marm, who served for six years with Her Majesty's forces, exchanged her class at St. Ignatius School in Canterbury with Miss Mary Barrett, fourth grade teacher at Victor School. "I don't think you really get to know a country or its people as well when you are spending a holiday as you do when you live and work amongst them" she said as she began her task of getting to know her fourth graders (Press-Herald Photo)

### Guild to Meet

Ladies Guild of the Central Evangelical United Brethren Church will meet Wednesday Oct. 14 at 10:30 a.m. at the guild hall, Marcelina and Arlington. Mrs. Florence Sommers, president, will conduct the meeting at which a rummage sale in October and a bazaar in November will be planned.

Hostesses for the meeting are Mmes. Pearl Scoles and Mabel Haslam.

### At Desert Home

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Paxton spent last weekend at their desert home, east of 29 Palms. They had as their guests Mr. and Mrs. Ralph King of Lesserman Avenue, Torrance.

### Meets Oct. 15

Golden Bear Council 17, Daughters of America, will meet Thursday evening at the Torrance Woman's Club, 1422 Engracia Ave., at 8 p.m. Viola Hubbard, councilor, will preside.

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## Bringing Up Baby.



HINTS COLLECTED BY MRS. DAN GERBER, MOTHER OF 5

A nice doctor I know told me recently: "Of course baby care is a serious business but sometimes mothers take it too seriously. As a consequence, they often develop a kind of grim tenseness which is easily transmitted to a baby and the baby may develop a corresponding tenseness. The mothers who laugh with their babies, and at themselves occasionally, are the most successful ones."

**Points to remember:** Grim determination to see that baby "licks the platter clean" may turn a naturally eager eater into a mealtime rebel. Food served with a smile usually gets a good reception.

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### Month at Tahoe

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